

Message Text

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LIMDIS

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

INDONESIA

LNG DECISION (CONF)

AMBASSADOR MASTERS HAS HAD TWO RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH
HIGH LEVEL INDONESIAN OFFICIALS ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE
PRICE ESCALATOR IMPASSE ON THE PAC INDO LNG CONTRACT.
THE INDONESIANS HAVE INFORMED US OF THEIR PREFERENCE FOR
A FUEL-RELATED BASIS FOR THE "U.S. 50 PERCENT" OF THE
FORMULA, BUT HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD MAKE ANOTHER
PROPOSAL IF THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO DOE. WE EXPECT TO
HAVE A REPLY TO SEND TO THEM VERY SHORTLY SO THAT THE
FINAL NEGOTIATION ON THE PRICE ESCALATOR CAN BEGIN IN
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JAKARTA LATER THIS MONTH.

TITLE III FOR INDONESIA (CONF)

THE SAGA OF TITLE III CONTINUES WITH YET ANOTHER VARIATION
OF THE MISSION'S PROPOSAL BEING FORMULATED WHICH WE HOPE
WILL MEET THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND INTERAGENCY TESTS. TOM

NIBLOCK IS REFINING IT WHILE ON LEAVE THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND THE NEW VERSION WILL BE REVIEWED AROUND THE BUILDING NEXT WEEK. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI WOULD NOT APPEAR USEFUL UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER VIEW OF ITS ACCEPTABILITY.

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED; ELECTIONS DUE JULY 8
(CONF)

EMBASSY K.L. REPORTS THAT THE MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN DISSOLVED AS OF JUNE 12, AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN SET FOR JULY 8. EXCEPT FOR KELANTAN, SABAH AND SARAWAK, STATE ELECTIONS WILL COINCIDE WITH THOSE FOR THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT. THE UNITED MALAY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (UMNO) GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE RULING NATIONAL FRONT COALITION HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN WILL ENTER THE ELECTIONS WITH MOST OF ITS INTERNAL DISPUTES SETTLED, WILL DEFINE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE ELECTIONS WILL BE RUN, AND WILL FACE A FRAGMENTED OPPOSITION. BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, THE EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT IS EXPECTED TO SCORE ANOTHER OVERWHELMING VICTORY IN BOTH THE NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS.

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MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ON HONOR'S LIST (LOU)

EMBASSY K.L. REPORTS THAT AT THE KING'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON JUNE 7, MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. ZAIN AZRAAI RECEIVED THE AWARD PANGLIMA SETIA DIARAJA (P.S.D.) WHICH CARRIES THE TITLE DATUK. ZAIN SHOULD HENCEFORTH BE ADDRESSED FORMALLY AS DATUK ZAIN. ON THE SAME HONOR'S LIST ZAIN'S FATHER RECEIVED THE PANGLIMA SETIA MAHKOTA (P.S.M.) WHICH CARRIES THE TITLE TAN SRI.

SINGAPORE

AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE DEPARTS SINGAPORE (UNCL)

AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE DEPARTED SINGAPORE ON JUNE 9 LEAVING DCM INGRAHAM IN CHARGE.

MUNITIONS CASES FOR SINGAPORE APPROVED (CONF)

EMBASSY SINGAPORE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT, FOLLOWING A REVIEW BY THE CONCERNED BUREAUS, SEVERAL MUNITIONS CASES FOR POLICE AND RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN APPROVED

IN PRINCIPLE. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO DELAY RESPONDING TO A

GOS INQUIRY RE THESE CASES UNTIL THE LICENSES HAVE IN
FACT BEEN ISSUED.

SINGAPORE BYE-ELECTIONS CABINET CHANGES AND POLICY REVIEW
ANTICIPATED (LOU)

EMBASSY SINGAPORE REPORTS THAT SEVERAL BYE-ELECTIONS MAY
BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO BRING NEW BLOOD INTO THE
GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, THE ENDING OF AN 18 MONTH
POST-ELECTION PERIOD AFTER WHICH PM LEE PROMISED MAJOR
NEW APPOINTMENTS, TOGETHER WITH CURRENT SHUFFLING OF
SECOND AND THIRD ECHELON OFFICIALS, HAS CREATED SPECULA-
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TION ON POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES. THESE WOULD INCLUDE
THE LIKELY RETIREMENT OF FINANCE MINISTER HON SUI SEN WHO
HAS BEEN IN ILL HEALTH (PERHAPS TO BE REPLACED BY GOH CHOK
TUNG, THE SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE) AND THE
SPLITTING OF SEVERAL OTHER PORTFOLIOS TO LESSEN THE
BURDEN ON THE INCUMBENTS AND BRING IN NEW FACES. LASTLY,
A MAJOR REVIEW OF LONG-RANGE GOVERNMENT POLICIES IS
UNDERWAY AND PARLIAMENT MAY BE PROROGUED FOLLOWING THE
JUNE 14 SITTING TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE
NEW POLICIES WHEN THE NEW SESSION IS CONVENED.

THAILAND

GAS PRICE AGREEMENT REACHED IN PRINCIPLE (LOU)

THAI PRESS REPORTS "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" REACHED
BETWEEN UNION OIL AND RTG ON WELLHEAD PRICE OF NATURAL
GAS AT 1 DOLS AND 4 CENTS PER 1000 CUBIC FEET. ALTHOUGH
INDUSTRY MINISTER KASEM EXPECTS TO SIGN FINAL CONTRACT
IN TWO WEEKS, UNION OIL REP IS NOT SO SANGUINE BECAUSE
EXCHANGE RATE GUARANTEE MUST BE NEGOTIATED AND NEW TAX
LEGISLATION ENACTED. UNION OIL THINKS TWO MONTHS RATHER
THAN TWO WEEKS MAY PASS BEFORE CONTRACT FINALLY SIGNED.

BURMA

COUP PLOTTER HANGED (CONF)

ACCORDING TO REPORTS CIRCULATING IN RANGOON, CONVICTED
COUP PLOTTER BURMA ARMY CAPTAIN OHN KYAN MYINT WAS
EXECUTED BY HANGING ON MAY 19. OHN KYAW MYINT WAS THE
ONLY ONE OF FIVE DEFENDANTS IN THE "CAPTAIN'S PLOT" WHO
RECEIVED THE DEATH SENTENCE. SHORTLY BEFORE HIS ARREST
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IN JULY OF 1976, HE HAD UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT ASYLUM IN
THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. WE BELIEVE THIS TO
BE THE FIRST TIME THAT A NON-NARCOTICS RELATED DEATH
SENTENCE HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT

SINCE NE WIN SEIZED POWER IN 1962. CHRISTOPHER

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